THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) At the G-20 Summit held in London on 2 April 2009, leaders committed to reaching an ambitious and balanced conclusion to the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO), which is urgently needed. Leaders pledged to give renewed focus and political attention to this issue and to use all international meetings that were relevant to drive progress.

Subsequently, the Doha Round has been on the agenda of several major international meetings including a meeting of the Cairns Group alliance of agricultural exporting countries in Indonesia and meetings on the sidelines of the OECD Ministerial Council meeting in June 2009, At these meetings, India and other developing countries stressed, *inter alia,* that the development dimension of the Round had to be honoured.

Improving industrial output

424. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial production dipped by 2.3% worst in 16 years in March this year while production of consumer durables had out shone giving ray of hope;

(b) whether Planning Commission estimates that stimulus would likely to add 0.5% to the gross domestic products in 2008-09;

(c) whether frozen financial markets abroad adversely affected big Indian companies and domestic credit squeeze dealt with major blow to small enterprises;

(d) if so, what is the latest position and what are the steps being considered to improve industrial output; and

(e) whether Government is hopeful that 2010 will be bright for industry as 2009 was year of uncertainty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) As per the revised estimates released by Central Statistical Organisation, the industrial growth measures in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) registered a growth of (-) 0.8% in March, 2009 compared to 5.5% in March, 2008. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) registered a growth of 2.6% in 2008-09 (Apr-March) and Consumer durables segment registered a growth of 4.4%.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The industrial growth measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) declined to 2.6% in 2008-09 due to global economic slowdown. The global recession has affected some of the export oriented industries in India, such as textiles, handicrafts, leather, and gems and jewellery. Slowdown in the demand for automobiles and its ancillaries, steel etc. has also been seen.

Several measures / initiatives have been taken by the Government to insulate the domestic industry from the impact of global recession and stimulate domestic demand.

The measures to stimulate domestic demand *inter-alia* include significant reduction in *ad valorem* CENVAT duty, incentives to the housing sector with a view to give a boost to affordable housing, and sector specific initiatives. For automobile sector an accelerated depreciation of 50% on commercial vehicles was announced and assistance to the States under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) provided for purchase of buses for urban transport system.

Further, a set of measures were announced for enhancing the flow of funds to the MSME sector.

The various measures to support exports include interest subvention of 2% for pre & post shipment export credit for identified labour intensive industries, additional allocation for export intensive schemes, additional funds towards providing guarantee by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporations (ECGC) and enhancements of duty draw back benefits on certain identified exportable items.

In addition, RBI has taken a number of steps to reduce the cost of credit and improve liquidity for the industry such as reduction of the Repo rates, reverse Repo rates, Cash reserve ratio etc.

The lowering of cost of credit, reduction in CENVAT, sector specific initiatives, have helped to stimulate domestic demand and generate higher employment. As a consequence of various measures taken by the Government there are early signs of recovery of the industrial sector. The index of industrial production which registered a negative growth rate of (-) 0.7% and (-) 0.8% in February and March 2009 respectively has improved to growth of 1.4% in April, 2009.

Growing market for organic cardamom

425. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is growing global and domestic market for organic cardamom;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to promote production and cultivation of cardamom;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Indian cultivators have suffered due to in transit smuggling of organic cardamom imported from Guatemala for Nepal; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent smuggling to safeguard the interest of domestic growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The demand for organic cardamom is growing in the world market.

(b) For production and productivity improvement of cardamom (small & large), Spices Board is implementing an exclusive scheme *viz*. Special Purpose Fund for Replantation & Rejuvenation of